

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – OCT 16, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- Union railway minister Piyush Goyal - flagged off three passenger train services in Tamil Nadu through video conferencing from New Delhi on October 15



- ✓ The trains will run on Coimbatore–Palani, Coimbatore–Pollachi and Karur – Salem stretches.
- ✓ These 3 trains were part of ten 'sewa' train services flagged off by the minister across the country
- ✓ The new services are inaugurated to improve connectivity between smaller cities and shift short distance travelling from buses to trains.

STATES

- Uttarakhand high court (HC) - prohibited the use of chilli powder either in the form of wires or balls or any other cruel means to stop elephants from crossing the highways

- ✓ There are 11 elephant corridors in Uttarkhand, out of which three fall in the Corbett National Park
- ✓ Elephants frequently use these corridors to cross the highway to reach the Kosi river to drink water.
- ✓ The state's forest department have been using chilli powder on many occasions to stop elephant herds from crossing the corridors.

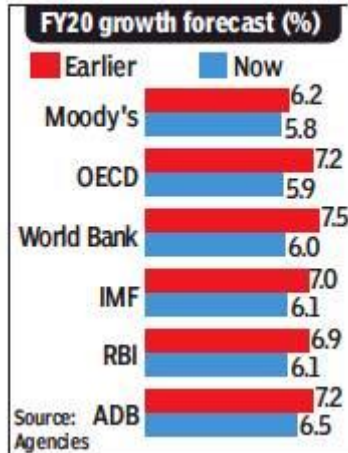
NATIONAL

- **All India Institute of medical sciences (Aiims), New Delhi – has been declared the cleanest central government hospital in the entire country in 2018-19**
- ✓ Jawaharlal institute of postgraduate medical education and research (Jipmer) in Puduchery has been adjudged as the second cleanest central government hospital
- ✓ Postgraduate institute of medical education and research, Chandigarh, was declared the third cleanest central government hospital.
- ✓ Earlier, Jipmer was adjudged the third cleanest central government hospital in 2017-18
- **Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh - have emerged as the top performing under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) scheme**
- ✓ Launched last year, the scheme crossed the 50-lakh treatment mark this week
- ✓ Under the scheme, secondary and tertiary level treatments worth ₹7,901 crore being carried out across 32 States and Union Territories.
- ✓ Cardiology, Orthopaedics, Radiation Oncology, Cardio-thoracic and Vascular Surgery, and Urology have emerged as the top tertiary specialities
- ✓ More than 60% of the amount spent has been on tertiary care

ECONOMY

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) - slashed India's GDP growth estimate to 6.1% in 2019-20 from its previous 7% forecast in July (and 7.3% in April)**
- ✓ China is estimated to grow at 6.1% in 2019-20 and at a slower pace of 5.8% next year
- ✓ The latest growth estimate of IMF is line with the RBI which has forecast 6.1% growth for 2019-20

WHAT THEY SAY



- ✓ Emerging economies will show increased growth — from 3.9% in 2019 to 4.6% in 2020, while advanced economies will slow to 1.7% in 2019 and 2020
- ✓ India's growth rate in the April-June quarter had hit 5%, the lowest in six years, as per government data.

AWARDS

- **Margaret Atwood And Bernardine Evaristo – are announced as the joint-winners of this year's Booker Prize**

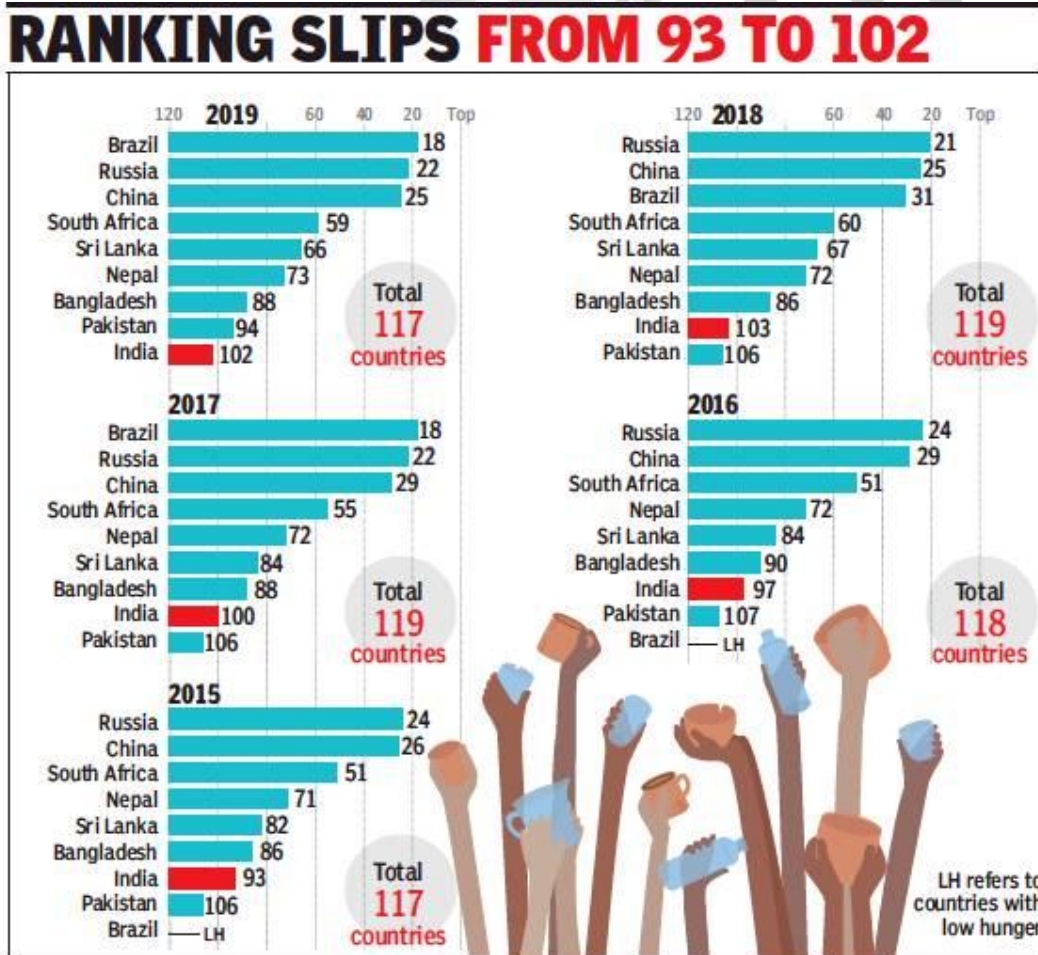


- ✓ Evaristo, who won for her novel “Girl, Woman, Other”, is the first black woman to win the Booker Prize
- ✓ Atwood, who won the Booker in 2000 for “The Blind Assassin,” won the award this year for “The Testaments”, published last month
- ✓ Both the authors will share prize money of 50,000 British Pounds for their novels
- ✓ ‘The Testaments’ is the sequel to Atwood’s 1985 novel, “The Handmaid’s Tale”, which has sold more than 8 million copies worldwide in English

- ✓ Evaristo, an experimental writer, is well established in Britain but not widely known internationally
- ✓ In her 8 works of fiction, Evaristo, who was born in London in 1959 to a white English mother and a Nigerian father, writes about the lives of members of the African diaspora
- ✓ In “The Testaments,” Atwood narrates the stories of three female narrators in Gilead, a religious autocracy in what was formerly the US.
- ✓ Canada’s Margaret Atwood has become oldest (79) to win Booker Prize
- ✓ She becomes the second women author to win the Booker Award twice and fourth overall writer.
- ✓ Salman Rushdie's tragicomic 'Quichotte' was also one of the six shortlisted books for the award

RANKINGS

- India - was ranked 102nd among 117 countries on the Global Hunger Index (GHI), released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)



- ✓ It was the lowest ranked among South Asian countries (the rest being ranked between 66 and 94) and way behind the other BRICS nations, the lowest of which was South Africa at 59
- ✓ After steady improvement, India's rank slipped from 2015, when it was ranked 93.
- ✓ Even Pakistan, which used to be the only country in South Asia to rank below India, has pulled ahead in the 2019 ranking to 94th place
- ✓ The GHI score considered the data from 2014 to 2018
- ✓ It is based on the proportion of a country's child population that is undernourished, share of children under 5 years of age who have insufficient weight for their height or whose height is not in relation to their age and the mortality rate of under-five children
- ✓ The GHI was prepared on the basis of four indicators that are - child mortality, undernourishment, child wasting (weight for age) and child stunting
- ✓ As per the report, only 9.6% of children between 6-23 months in India were fed a minimum acceptable diet
- ✓ Also, child wasting rate is the highest (20.8%) in the world while child stunting rate is 37.9% in India.
- ✓ Nepal has shown the highest percentage change in its ranking since 2000
- ✓ The Central African Republic is at lowest, 117th, place in the list.
- ✓ The GHI ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst.

